## Amnsements and Alcetings

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BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.-Minstrels. DALT'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATER.—"Moorcroft."
LYCEUM THEATER.—"Much Ado About Nothing." Miss
Nellson. OLYMPIC THEATER .- Vaudeville Varieties of America.

PARK THEATER .- "Gilded Age." John T. Raymond. SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.-Birch and Wambold. STEINWAY HALL.-Entertainment by Maccabe. UNION SQUARE THEATER.—"The Sphinx." Miss Clara Morris and Miss Charlotte Thompson. WALLACK'S THEATER .- "The Rivals."

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR .- Annual Exhibition. ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.-Missionary Meeting.

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# New-Dork Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1874.

# WITH SUPPLEMENT.

The Duke Decazes has presented to the Spanish Em bassador in France documents in support of the French position toward the Carlists. Four hundred Carlists have been captured by the Republicans near Albacete. About 200 lives have been lost by the earthquake in Guatemala. = It is said that a German vessel has demanded an indemnity of the natives on Navigator's Islands with a design ultimately to secure the territory.

The Democratic victory in Ohio was celebrated in Cleveland Saturday night. is under consideration by the Synod of Northern Illinois; the consideration of the complaint against the Chicago Presbytery will take place to-day. — A party of white men, bound for the Black Hills, were attacked by the Sioux; several Indians and white men were killed in the fight that ensued. \_\_\_\_ It is probable that a conference between the committees of the two parties in Louisiana will take place to-day.

The Protestant Episcopal General Convention sanctioned the election of Bishop Wells. —— An eccentric coin-seller, while in jail on a charge of buying stolen postage stamps. was robbed of \$100,000. \_\_\_\_ Gold, 110, 1091, 110. Thermometer, 55°, 53°, 43°.

Prof. Swing's case is to come up before the Presbytery of Northern Illinois, where the liberal element is supposed to be comparatively weak. As the Professor is no longer connected with the Chicago Presbytery, it is that body and not he that must be subjected

The safe-burglary case-if it is not postponed-will come up for trial at Washington to-merrow. Among those who are not expected at court is Benton, whom District-Attorney Harrington has released on insignificant bail. Some people have been unkind enough to hint that there is a desire to keep this scandal under cover till after election day.

The visit to Washington of the 1st Regiment of Virginia Volunteers from Richmond, recalls the pleasant days of intercourse between our citizen soldiery of the different sections, before the war, when our 7th Regiment and the Richmond Militia exchanged calls. Perhaps in courtesies like these politicians may see some signs of what the rest of the people have long ago found out-that the war is over.

Details of a desperate fight between a party of adventurers bound for the Black Hills and a band of Sioux, are given elsewhere. The men who attempt the invasion of that region after the distinct announcements from Washington that the Government would not sanction such attempts, are simply outlaws. They take their lives in their own hands, and losing them can have no pity. Their efforts if successful would be a national disgrace, and we may regard it as good fortune that in the present instance the party was compelled to return.

As the assembling of Congress approaches. rumors thicken of the ability and strength of a lobby that is to influence heavy Government subsidies to the Northern Pacific and other railroads. Judging from the feelings of the people on this subject, it might be supposed that there was little danger of such projects being carried through; but it must be recollected that several Congressmen are to go into retirement at the end of the session, and while on the one hand they will need something to solace them after withdrawal from public life. they will have, on the other, no anxiety about the opinions of constituents.

Special Agent Elliott's account of Alaska, as indicated in our dispatches, will not be so glowing as some Government reports that have | Ku-Klux violence in the hope of intervention | -for whose hoper

preceded it. We hear no more of tropical fruits and the isothermal warmth of the Kuro Siwo. In fact, Mr. Elliott is candid enough to advise the Icelanders who think of coming, to seek Puget Sound, instead of Alaska where they will simply "waste their lives." Perhaps the discrepancy between this and previous accounts arises from the circumstance that the Special Agent is a student of natural history and a close observer, and is qualified by long residence in the region to know what he is writing about.

Secret sessions still continuing in the Episcopal Convention, there is little to be reported of public interest. The need of secrecy in these meetings is likely to be called in question, since the proceedings are really not of a sort that need to be concealed. Apropos to the main interest which attaches to this Convention, we furnish to-day a complete statement of the ritualistic movement in this country, describing its objects, character and history. This will be found of great value when the expected discussion upon the subject takes place, as there are many among both its foes and friends whose knowledge respecting it hardly equals their zeal.

Some of the materials for such a story of low life in a crowded metropolis as would have delighted Dickens, are to be found in the sketch we give to-day of Bryant, the dealer in postage stamps. Keeping an insignificant stand in William-st., near Fulton, and bearing the usual indications of poverty, he has carried on a business in stamps and old coins for many years. Some days ago we gave an account of his arrest. The evidence was that his business of buying stamps at less than their face value was the means of making young thieves of office boys. While he was under arrest his apartments were robbed, and he declares that \$70,000 in gold, and other property amounting to at least half as much more, have been stolen. There is in this story a very obvious moral about ill-gotten gains; and some other reflections about the danger of being robbed if on any cause or pretext one is arrested, and about the extreme rarity of stolen money being recovered, will suggest

Elsewhere appear two cards from Dr. Sears, concerning THE TRIBUNE's report of the proceedings of the Trustees for the Peabody Educational Fund. The Doctor seems to have made some brief verbal statements concerning the doings of the Board, and to have furnished a long report of his own doings as Agent, which he wished THE TRIBUNE to put in type and forward for simultaneous publication by the entire press of New-York and Boston. The Tribune used the news about the Board's meeting, but promptly returned the long document-not thinking the matter worth the space in its crowded columns. Thereupon the Doctor denounces the brief account of the Trustees' proceedings-a different matter altogether-which we did print-as "inaccurate," and "a gross violation of a pledge of personal honor," and rushes hastily before the public in defense of the cause of 'truth and honorable journalism." The Doctor is a most excellent man, of high character and pure motives; but we judge from the tone of his explanations last night, as well from his second note, that he has probably discovered by this time that in his excitement at our declining to print his report he went off at half cock.

CAN THEY LEARN ANYTHING? It is pretty clear that the Administration party has fallen since the elections of last week into nearly the same condition of panic which seized upon the Democracy in October, 1868. Six years ago terrified partisans of Horatio Seymour proposed to save themselves from inevitable defeat by discarding an ob-To-day, under very similar circumstances, the Republicans offer to appease an irritated people by tardy declarations against the third term. The result of such a change of front, if it should be attempted, would probably be the same in the one case that it was in the other. There are critical periods in every battle when change becomes impossible. Whatever the blunders in the original plan of attack, trying to correct them too late can only aggravate the disaster. The solitary chance for the Administration now is to make the best possible fight in the disadvantageous position it has foolishly occupied, and if it is beaten to retire in good order and prepare for the

next engagement. But in the midst of these portents of demoralization it seems to be bent upon fresh mistakes. Next to suspicions of the thirdterm project the most potent cause of the recent Republican reverses was undoubtedly the misconduct of the Administration in the Southern States, where local governments were made and upset at the pleasure of Federal office-holders, and elections were turned into burlesques. Yet we find the Administration preparing for a repetition of the frauds and violence which have brought upon the party such serious discredit. In Louisiana there is every prospect of the perpetration of gigantic rascalities at the next election, and the men who swindled the people in 1872 are still in office and high in the favor of the White House. In South Carolina the Republican candidate for Governor, who was formally presented to the nominating convention as the choice of President Grant, was deeply concerned in the scandals off the Scott administration, and is now making his canvass in company with the notorious Moses, candidate for the Legislature on the same ticket. In Alabama a disgraceful attempt to manufacture a reign of terror, as an excuse for military intervention, has been defeated by the promptness of independent Northern journals in putting the falsehoods of Republican politicians like Mr. Hays to the test of careful investigation; nevertheless we find the Federal Government assuming the police supervision of the State, sending troops into perfectly quiet localities, and arresting citizens by the wholesale for alleged offenses which do not properly come under its cognizance. The Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee of Sumter County is arrested at a political meeting on charge of "conspiracy to 'injure" a Federal detective, and sent 150 miles for examination before a Commissioner, although there are two Commissioners on the

A Sheriff's posse of fifty men is arrested by the same Federal officer for interfering to quell a negro riot; and there seems to be a fair chance that before election day all the white Democrats of the county will be in terror of deputy marshals and special agents. Upon this election in Alabama a great deal is understood to depend; the vote is close; and it is plain enough that if the Republicans are beaten they are prepared to raise the cry of tribute of a smile. And Gen. Grant certain ambitious talkers whose only object

spot, both of them of course Republicans.

from Washington. In Arkansas they are threatening to have the new Constitution set aside, though it has been adopted by a majority of 75,000 votes; and in Georgia they are complaining of murderous outrages and wholesale intimidation, though the State is notoriously in profound peace.

If the Republican party wishes to regain lost ground, it must begin a reform right here. It must talk plain English to the President; tell him there must be an end of these shameful performances in the Southern States; Kellogg, Chamberlain, Hays, Spencer, Patterson, Clayton, and all adventurers of that stamp must be sent adrift; the right of selfgovernment must be restored to Louisiana; and Messrs. Casey and Packard must be invited to retire. The party is too heavily handicapped. If it wants to win this pace, it must unload.

OUR EXPORTS TO CANADA.

We publish this morning an explanation from Dr. Edward Young, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics-one of the small number of our high officials of whom the nation has reason to be proud-of the incompleteness hitherto existing in the official statistics of our exports to Canada. In justice to Dr. Young we assure our readers that in what we before observed on this subject, he was the last man we intended to reflect upon.

Still, we regard it as a fact the reverse of creditable to the Treasury Department and to Congress that no trustworthy statistics of our exports to Canada have hitherto been collected and published; that statistics known to be incomplete have been printed year after year without warning of their imperfections, and that Congress has never taken sufficient interest in the matter to provide for the collection of correct information. At the same time such things with us are not uncommon. For a score or more of years the registration of births in this city has been so incomplete as to deprive the tables compiled from them of all value. Absolute correctness is not to be attained in operations so extensive as the collection and tabulation of the exports of so large a country as the United States, but a certain degree of approximation to the truth is requisite, or else all the labor bestowed is worse than wasted. The census of the United States, by aiming to accomplish almost everything, does almost nothing well. To this melancholy fact we have the strongest testimony from the Superintendent of the last one taken.

Our export trade to Canada includes a great many articles of our own manufacture, and it is desirable to know what those articles are and what they are worth; but it is precisely this important part of our exports to Canada of which no accounts have been collected. On the eve of disposing of an important commercial treaty, we consult the tables of exports to Canada and find that no attempt has been made to keep an account of goods sent across the border in railroad cars. At the same time there is nothing to show that the table of exports is incomplete, and the public have generally accepted it as a full record. For example, we find for the fiscal year 1873, exports of cotton goods to the value of \$134,000, and of woolen goods, \$14,000. If we really have exported cotton goods to the value of one or two millions and woolen goods to half that amount, as seems not impossible, it is important to know it. Dr. Young deserves credit for his efforts to obtain this information for us. So far as last year is concerned the evil can be remedied, but it is evident that any comparisons with former years will be false and misleading.

MORE WITTY THAN WISE.

The Great American Humorists must open their ranks for a recruit who bids fair to pluck the laurels from the funniest of them. Judge Edwards Pierrepont, who has been heretofore considered a man of rather serious views of ten a letter to a friend in Northern New-York saying "he is satisfied that Gen. Grant has "no wish or plan or intent to run for a third 'term." He goes on to explain why false impressions have arisen in relation to the matter. It seems that he and his "acquaintances," scorning to be questioned before the election day of 1876 as to their opinion of the propriety of a third term for a President, have been in the habit of talking "jokingly to the ene-'mies of Gen. Grant, saying that his enemies might force us to run him for a third term, etc." He says that this has placed the President and his friends in "an awkward position."

This is certainly true. We have rarely seen more delightful humor and more sorrowful truth in so little space. The only fault about this joke lies in the excessive finesse and delicacy of its irony. It is so fine that few can see it. Only the most gifted microscopic minds can perceive the joke in the third term leaders in the President's kitchen organ, the third term resolutions of the South Carolina and Florida Conventions, the third term letters of Kemper and other Southern politicians, the third term speeches of Pomerov and Conkling at Utica, and the distinct and positive third term pronouncement of Alexander H. Stephens the other day in Georgia. We doubt if anybody would have seen what those mad wags were aiming at if it had not been for this lucid commentary of Judge Pierrepont. They were merely in for a lark. They had no other object in view but to increase the innocent gayety of the world. But they played their sportive game so excessively fine that many simple-minded people thought they were in earnest, and were so frightened at the comic grimaces and funny antics of these amateur comedians that they went off in their panic and voted the Democratic ticket before any of the humorous troop had time to explain. Perhaps the actors did not see the joke themselves so clearly until after the election. Our best jokes sometimes have that fine posthumous growth. Brilliant as the wit of it seems, when Judge

Pierrepont holds it up to us in the right light and shows us where the laugh comes in, we cannot regard the joke as an especially happy one, when we consider it in connection with what we may call its environment. Take the funny men, the subject the joke was about, and the results of it altogether, and nobody can conscientiously class it among the facetia which have had good luck. There is nothing more effective in politics than humor and satire properly handled. It was one of the keenest and most powerful blades in the armory of Lincoln. In the hands of Horace Greeley it never missed its mark. But when we think of Ohio, we are brought reluctantly to the conclusion that as practical jokers these third term friends of Gen. Grant are far more witty than wise. We do not believe that Gen. Dix with all his appreciation of genial letters will pay to this effort of Messieurs Pierrepont, Pomeroy & Co. the passing

the

was invented by the most faithful of his household comedians,-what does he probably think of it now? We would not rashly attempt to fathom a mind which probably has depths unsounded by Gen. Babeock, but we would hazard a not irreverent guess that even he but dimly sees the fun of it. He feels, perhaps-to compare dark things with brightlike that historic uncle of color upon whose firm head some humorous boys dropped an anvil out of a third-story window. hyar!" he remonstrated, "I don't object to 'young folks enjoyin' of themselves, but you've done spiled my hat."

If we were as intimate with Judge Pierrepont as he is with the President, we should advise him to imitate Dr. Holmes, and not be as funny as he can. Another colleague of his in humorous literature said the other day, and we commend the apothegm to his candid consideration, "No man can be a healthy fool "unless he was suckled at the breast of

THE OFFICE-HOLDERS' POLICY.

The organs of the Administration are either unable or unwilling to discuss the question of a third term upon its merits. Either from sheer lack of comprehension of the subject, or a determination not to admit its seriousness and gravity, they treat it not as a matter involving a disregard of all precedents and a radical change in the very theory of our Government, but simply as a question of President Grant's availability or capacity, or his own wishes with regard to it. It seems almost impossible to beat it into the heads of the small-brained persons connected with organic journalism that this is not a question whether President Grant desires a reëlection, nor of how many votes he could poll, nor of his strength in the party, nor of his fitness for office. It is primarily a governmental question; not one of party policy or personal belongings, and it is as such that it should be treated by men who undertake to be responsible for the policy and acts of a great party having control of the country. It is so mischievous and dangerous a heresy, that the unwillingness of some discreet and soberminded party leaders at first to admit it into the realm of political discussion as a possibility to be considered can hardly be wondered at. But, willingly or unwillingly, the subject has been forced upon them in such manner that they cannot safely overlook or neglect it. They must meet it as a purely political question; stripped of all merely personal or party considerations. In that view of it, they are relieved of all embarrassment concerning the relations of the party to the President of its choice.

The question has been widely agitated. State and other conventions of the Administration party have taken ground in favor of a third term: leading Administration organs have either openly avowed their support of the plan or fairly intimated their readiness at some later and more appropriate time to come out for it unequivocally, and some of the most influential leaders of the party are known to be doing all in their power quietly to push the scheme to success. These are the facts which demand thoughtful consideration. In view of them and in view of the tremendous possibilities attaching to a system of patronage which ramifies through the whole country, with Washington as its center and all the wires under the finger of the Executive, the Republican party was invited simply to put an end to the mischief which the very suggestion of such a possibility must cause. It could have done it with a half dozen words of affirmation of a plain principle of government, such as the Kansas Republicans put in their platform. But the party managers, in the pride and plenitude of power, preferred to treat with contempt the citizens who propounded to them civil and courteous questions and preferred reasonable requests, and to disnoxious candidate for the Vice-Presidency. life, comes forward to claim the credit of the miss them as "the clamor of men who are

fond of making a fuss." What course is open then to the citizen who thinks he foresees danger in the careful avoidance of the subject by the adroit managers who know how to "fix things" and bide their time? He has asked his conventions to affirm explicitly the adherence of the party to the traditions of the past and the doctrines of the fathers, and the managers have dismissed him with the remark that he was making too much fuss." He has reason to believe that the men who hold office are planning to keep themselves in place by the reëlection of their patron, and he sees great peril to the Republic in such a proceeding. What can he do except quietly protest against it, and against the conspirators who imitate their master's silence and wait their opportunity. How protest? There is but one way left, and that is at the ballotbox. The Democratic party may be dangerous and bad; thousands of Republicans so consider it, who do not like to vote for its candidates, and yet are unwilling to give countenance or support, directly or indirectly, to the third term conspiracy. Many of them will lay aside their scruples and vote the Democratic ticket, for the simple reason that they can in no other way make their opposition to the office-holding management of their own party effective. They will do this the more readily because they see that the safety and prosperity of the country demand that the minority should be strengthened in Congress, and that the party so overwhelmingly preponderant in all branches of the Government should be reminded of its responsibility to the people and put under additional checks and restraints for its own and the country's good. There is no danger of immediate Democratic ascendency. There is danger of the Republican party falling under the absolute control of office-holders and being used by them for purposes at war with the principles upon which it was founded. There have been times when a Democratic success would have been greatly injurious to the country. That is not now, however. The reflecting voter sees and understands this, and it will not be strange if the coming elections should disclose a greater disposition on the part of the people to rise above party and act for the country than has been seen in many years before.

THE WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

The Congress of Women, whose session has just closed in Chicago, if it at all equaled m dignity or earnestness of purpose their first meeting in this city a year ago, ought to command a larger share of public attention than any other of the numberless convocations of women held since the beginning of the movement for their "enfranchisement." The women in the first Congress came apparently because they really had something to say or to do. Unfortunately, the Woman's Movement (like the majority of Movements among men) threw to the front merry just was to gain potoriety or to advertise them-

selves in their individual capacities as lec- FINE ARTS-DRAMA-MUSIC. turers, physicians, or preachers; and in that single fact lies the secret of the indifference with which this cause, so dear to the hearts of many good women and men, has been held so long by the public. A demagogue or vaporing sentimentalist is recognized by the sharp common sense of the people as easily in petticoat and polonaise as in coat and hat. Neither vaporing nor demagogism was tolerated in the first Congress, and we believe has not been in the second; it is indeed quite time that the Cause should show practical work to practical ends, and confine the flow of words to brief councils as to direction of that work. The public, we would suggest in all respect and sincerity, has borne a long wash of words on this subject; we have had all the adjuncts of a nine-days flood, from the rainbow hues of sentiment to the mud of abuse. We hail with relish as a wholesome sign, therefore, the actual items of work doing or done, offered in the Congress.

The quiet assumption of a man's ordinary place and labor by any one woman, and the faithful, complete performance of that work, do more to convince the public of feminine ability than the eulogies of that ability in a dozen windy orations. We might doubt the safety of "great monetary enterprises," when committed to female hands, or question whether women had any leading part to play in finance for the salvation of the country, even after hearing these subjects ably handled by Mrs. Livermore or Mrs. Soulé. But we remember certain business houses conducted by women with a sharp eye to the and successful main chance; we recollect and to every a pretty, fashionable widow, to whom was given the control of her husband's property for five years, and who so traded and worked untiringly as to conquer a comfortable fortune for herself in that time, and then sank back again composedly into the warmth of India shawls and glitter of ball-rooms. There were young girls in the South, too, driven during the war to exert themselves or starve, who raised mules, planted cotton, and ran the blockade with it, too, as shrewdly and successfully as any carpet-bagger could have done; there are thousands of women in Paris and London any one of whom offers more certain proof of the variety and keenness of the capacity of her sex for making money than the most metaphysical essay on her financial ability could do. It was not, we beg our earnest friends to remember, Aaron, who could speak well, whom the people followed, but Moses, who brought them manna and quails to satisfy their hunger.

The return of Miss Charlotte Cushman to the stage s fuller of interest than any mere dramatic event can be. She is the only representative now remaining of a great and noble school of art which has passed away and left nothing as yet prepared to take its place. Her mental and physical powers have been so wonderfully preserved that those who see her in Queen Catharine can have as clear an idea as their fathers had of the best tragic acting a half century ago, and those who witness her Meg Merrilies need no other illustration of that magnificent kind of melodramatic acting which has now gone out of fashion. We have no right to speak but with the greatest reserve of the great tragedian's personal merits. But'those who go to Booth's Theater during the coming weeks will talk to those who come after them of the pleasure they had in seeing, in her glorious old age, a woman who will always remain an honored tradition of the stage, which she illumined with the equal splendor of her genius and

Though Gen. Butler's bitterest enemy never accused him of modesty, some of his best friends have tried to credit him of late with a disposition so retiring as to induce him to withdraw from public life at the end of another term. But the precedent of his pertinacity is against it, as well as the precedent of perversity and foolishness among his Republican opponents. Moreover, the General does not talk like a man who is pronouncing his ante-mortem obituary. In his speech to the Convention he said: "I have warm and faithful friends, whom I shall be glad to serve in any way I can whenever it is consistent with the public service." This was heard and frantically applauded by collectors and assessors, and special agents and clerks, Simmonses in bud and Simmonses in bloom, and looks like another campaign for something.

A letter signed "Peat-Fuel Company" calls our attention to an old note from Mr. Greeley, saying that he was tired of hearing of peat machines, and would rather hear of peat fuel; when the first hundred tons came to this city for sale, he wanted to be informed of it. The Peat-Fuel Company say that it has come, and that it enters the market in competition with the most expensive coals; whereupon they solicit our investigation. All we have to say at present is, that a company which gives no signs of its exstence in the newspapers or in the City Directory, and which is so unbusiness like as to send us a letter without date or other clue to its local habitation. does not seem to us to have yet started on the most certain method of supplanting coal in the New-York market, desirable as that consummation might be.

The following official announcement may reasonably be supposed to have created something like consternation in straitened households, though of course the great public heard nothing of the inconvenience which resulted from it:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJ.-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, July 23, 1874.

WASHINGTON, July 23, 1874. 5
[Memoradum]
There will be no payments made by the Freedmen's
Branch of this office before the 1st day of September,
1871, the disbursing officer being on leave of absence. We do not object to a reasonable leave of absence for public officers; but if the business of every bureau and department comes to a full stop whenever its chief is away, it seems to us the Government machinery at Washington must be immovable for about six months in the year.

The dreadful freshet at Haydenville, Mass., has had a quickening effect upon at least one Haydenvillain's conscience, for he has just returned to a widow of that town an old half-bushel measure which he borrowed of her husband sixteen years ago. What must have been the feelings of that poor sinner when the Last Day seemed to be at handwhen Judgment threatened him with that halfbushel weighing heavily upon his soul! Perhaps he wickedly wished it a large tub in which he might defiantly float in safety. At any rate, he was scared into restitution as aforesaid; and glad the widow was to get the bushel for a sonvenir, it being the only thing of her own or her husband's which was not washed away.

The Union League did wisely in adopting its earnest resolutions in favor of the Constitutional Amendments; and its action derives especial weight from the non-partisan attitude of the Club. We believe both the candidates favor the amendments; and at any rate there can be no doubt of their adoption if only sufficient interest can be aroused to secure a full vote on the subject. Three of these amendments we regard as of special value, those checking special legislation, providing decent pay for legislators, and stopping the waste of the State's money on the lateral cauals. Will not the press bring them more generally than has yet been done to the attention of voters?

Whenever we hear of the Baroness Burdett Coutts we hear some good of her. Her last bit of benevolence has been to institute a Donkey Show at Torquay, the object being to promote the virtues of patience and moderation in the bosoms of the donkey drivers. If the animal ever can thrill with

EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS BY MEMBERS OF THE NEW-YORK CHAPTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

A certain witty lady is reported to have

said, that, when dinner was announced, all her

daughters put on their bats, and went (for a walk. We

ecalled this sally the other night , as we examined the

large collection of drawings in the Somerville Building, since an exhibition having been announced of drawings by members of the New-York Chapter of the Institute of Architects, many of the principal members would be only in seeming, and the names we miss may not belong to the Institute; in which case, we may be allowed to say, so much the worse for the Institute. In our opinion, the time has come when at least a yearly exhibition should be made of what is going on in the field of Architecture here about us, and if the exhibition could be made to include the principal buildings going up in other parts of our country, that would be so much the more interesting. So important do we think the exhibition we propose, that if we are to consider the present collection of drawings as an attempt to establish a custom, we cheerfully overlook many things we should else be disposed to criticise with some sharpness. For, as an exhibit of what the New-York Chapter of the Institute of Architects can show in the way of designs for buildings either merely proposed or actually in course of execution, it does not cheer us much. Studied with care some clover enough professional work, both in design and in draughtsmanship, is discoverable, but the good is in proportion to the bad or the comm place, too much like the bread in Falstaff's bill to the sack. What will most surprise the foreign visitor-perhaps we may say the Euglish especially -will be the jejune character of the drawing; there are several tolerable pieces of draughtsmanship here, but hardly one firstrate, and even those that pass muster took like the work of paid assistants, not like the work of an artistenjoying the record of his own design. Mr. Healy's uncomfort able charges against the sculptors that they are artists by proxy, might be said apparently of too many of our architects, only without implying any deception on their part, for the employment of professional decorative draughtsmen to put "elevations" into perspective. and dress them up into a picture with color, sky, trees and figures, is so common as not to be thought worth concealing. It seems odd, but there is proof enough on these walls that we have architects willing to offer at buildings of great cost and importance who cannot represent their designs to the eye in perspective with any skill or artistic charm. But everybody who has seen such exhibitions in London or Paris knows that the artistic excellence and spirit of the drawings is a prime charm of the display, and makes more than half the value of the exhibition as an educator. It is as well worth while to study an architectural drawing by Burges, or I. P. Seddon, or Street, or Truefitt, as to study landscapes or figures by certain Royal Academicians. man might do a worse thing for the cultivation of his eye or his taste than to buy Viollet le Duc's "History of Architecture" for the woodents alone, even if he could not read a word of the French text. It seems, and faith, it is as absurd to imagine an architect worthy of the name unable to put his own design on paper pretorially as to suppose a landscape painter handing over town assistant a bundle of Summer sketches to work up for the Academy. Yet it had an audacious look to see a man proposing to build such a colossal monstrosity as the State Capitol at Hartford-alas, poor Hartford!and yet not a bit dashed at having to prove his incompetency by three such drawings of the building as were conspicuous on these walls. We admit that a New-Yorker living in sight of the new-Post-Office had better say as little as possible about monstrosities in building, but that must not prevent our squeezing Hartford's hand in silent sympathy, when we think of the Court house she is to have. We thinkithe architect must have eaten very heartily late at night of the Capitol at Washington, St. Peter's at Rome, a few Gothic cathedrais, with some French chateaux by way of relish, and topping off with some of Muliett's performances—and then gone to bed and dreamed this nightmare. However, if Hartford lets him build it, another generation will make New-Haven the capital in self-defense. There are some drawings here that are not badly ere cuted, those for instance tsent thy Mr. N. Le Brun, Mr.

J. C. Cady, Mr. Arthur Crooks, Mr. Bruce Price. But there is nothing striking, and the same judgment must be pronounced upon the designs, which are disappointingly tame when they are not convalsively ambitious. This seems to us the worst feature of the exhibition, the feverish attempt at display, the over-ornamentation, the tawdry effect, repose in an unknown quality except in rare instances, and is tame rather than dignified when it is met with at all.

Still, though this exhibition does not give a very cheerful notion of what our New-York architects are doing, we are glad to see a beginning made, and heartily wish it could have been open longer. Why the Academy of Design does not offer the Institute its rooms for an exhibition is a puzzle we do not profess to be able to solve. We should have supposed it existed for such occasions. But the Institute is pushed to hire a dancinghall, and can only have it by grace for two nights. opened in the Academy, and an effort made to have the real condition of architecture among us represented by the works of our principal architects as well as by less

# THE DRAMA

FIFTH AVENUE THEATER-MOORCROFT. Mr. B., C. Howard's new play, entitled Mooreroft," was acted at the Fifth Avenue Theater on Saturday night, in the presence of a fashionable audience, so numerous that it filled every part of the house. The piece was set upon the stage with neat and pretty scenery, and its chief parts were very richly iressed. Portions of it elicited laughter and quite hearty applause. These manifestations, however, were such as good-natured audiences generally give, and it would be foolish to infer from them that " Moorcroft " is accepted as a good American comedy, or as a good play in any sense whatever. Play-goers here-who, as class and as a rule, do not attach much importance to the subject -are so courteously and kindly anxious that everything should go well upon the stage that they are quick to accept the least indications of merit, and they are especially ready to admire and applaud the effects of purely farcical incidents. Indications of merit do here and there occur in Mr. Howard's play, and farce effects abound in it; so that it is entirely easy for an experienced observer of such matters to see how a first-night audience could applaud this piece without in the least intending to approve it. A sillier play than " Moor-croft "it has never been our misfortune to witness; and we are fully persuaded that the public understood, and will continue to understand, its silliness. It is, possibly, a trifle better than "Saratoga," because that play was coarsely indelicate and this one is not indelicate at all; but the same sickening puerility of style characterizes both the plays, and in Moorcroft" it swells and bourgeons like an inflated cauliflower. Any talk about Ameri can Comedy, in relation to this piece, would be an impertinence to intelligent readers. Our literature is not destitute of good comedies, as all persous know, who know anything about the subject; and, as to the compositions of Mr. Howard, he has never written one line of comedy, and, if the quality and traits of his pieces may be accepted as indications, he never willfor they clearly denote that be is naturally ignorant of the whole matter. Wherever wit is in order Mr. Howard is protty sure to remember the little anecdotes in his comic almanac; and his idea of humor-as shown in Moorcroft "-is a man dressed in woman's clothes, who talks falsetto and coughs and strangles, or a negro in pink neck-tie, who speaks bad French. For representative traits of character, representative incidents in life-

of romance, and that fine style of exaggeration which is the essential robe of comedy, not to speak of good English, the spectator will look in vain, into any composition by this writer. It seemed judicious and humane, at first, to view Mr. Howard's efforts with leniency; and we looked in a charitable manner upon one "American Comedy" in which the youth of this time were represented as making assignations through the nasty medium of The Herald personals, and a newlymarried old gentleman was shown to be jealous of his own scarcely adolescent son. This had not the dignity of good, honest, downright French filth, but was a kind school-boy imitation of it. Still, it was a mess of triviality and farce, and there seemed reason to let is go. Human patience, however, has limits, and " Moorcroft" goes beyond them. We do not intend to compliment this farrage by writing out the analysis of it which we have mentally made. It starts with a strong and suggestive idea-borrowed from a sketch by Col. John Hay-growing out of the theory of possibly complicated, tragic or pathetic social and domeetic relations incident to the system of Southers lavery now extinct. A Georgia planter is represe as having sold his balf-brother to an amorous widow is the neighborhood, who meets her escaped chattel,

... stood Leves afferward' end broboses to elvist pre-

other than superficial ones-truthful pictures of manners

sensible and delicate suggestions of ideals, the elements